



Release Highlights: March 28, 2005

MONTANA

Educational Attainment

<http://ceic.mt.gov/MTQuickFacts.htm>

The U.S. Census Bureau has just released estimates showing educational attainment, and the numbers show a consistent achievement level for Montana. The sample group for the estimates was persons 25 years and over during the year 2004.

High School Graduates

Montana is tied with Wyoming for the second place slot of highest percentage of high school graduates, at 91.9% (Minnesota came in first at 92.3%). Only eight states have a high school graduate rate of over 90%, with two other Western states, Alaska and Utah, in this group.

Bachelor's Degree

In Census 2000 Montana was right at the national average for percentage of people with a Bachelor's Degree. This new batch of estimates shows that 25.5% of Montanans have a Bachelor's Degree, as compared to 28% for the entire United States. While the Montana number is up about 1% from Census 2000, the figures for the whole country are at an all time high.

National Trends

In looking at educational attainment by age groups, there are some interesting trends. High School diplomas peaks for those ages 50 to 54 years at 89.9%, and drifts downward to 86.6% for those ages 25 to 29. Bachelor's Degrees show a somewhat similar trend, although less pronounced; with the obvious possibility that persons in their 20's and 30's are more likely to be still working on their education.

Women are slightly more likely to be high school graduates than men, although the percentage difference flips to males when looking at completion of undergraduate degrees. There also continues to be widely disparate figures when looking at educational attainment by race. Completion of Bachelor's degrees break down as follows: Asian 49.4%, Black 17.6%, Hispanic (of any race) 12.1%, and White 28.2%.

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Information, 2002 Economic
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Counties, 2004